



Atlanta Regional Council *for* Higher Education

January 27, 2012

The Honorable David J. Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Department of Commerce
Madison Buildings
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

On behalf of the 20 public and private colleges and universities that are members of the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education, I am pleased to write in support of Atlanta as a regional site for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Our members represent a broad cross section of institutional types, including major research universities, traditional liberal arts colleges, comprehensive undergraduate and graduate universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and specialized institutions of art, medicine and technology. Collectively, higher education in the region enrolls over 176,000 students, employs over 65,000 faculty and staff, and awards over 36,000 degrees at the bachelor's level and higher each year. Given the number of internationally known universities located here, total research expenditures exceed \$1 billion annually and make Atlanta one of the nation's leading higher education research centers.

This unique mix of academic institutions – along with their associated schools of law, engineering, business, public health, et cetera – provide an environment in Atlanta in which faculty and research expertise and a skilled workforce are readily available to help support a satellite office of the PTO and enable it to be successful across the wide range of its responsibilities.

We appreciate your strong consideration of Atlanta as a possible new site for a PTO regional office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. Gerber".

Michael A. Gerber
President